

MR. WILSON: Good afternoon. My name is Ryan Wilson. I'm a land man employed in the coal industry. I'm here to represent the working class of the millennial generation. What we are discussing today will impact my career for the rest of my life. I'd like to start out by addressing some statements made in 2014, prior to the BLM publically announcing the coal leasing reform. Much of what occurring is today is resulted from influence by Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts who, in my opinion, is financially backed by multiple environmental groups. First, I'd like to clarify there are no BLM coal leases or coal mines in Massachusetts. So, I have no idea why Senator Markey thinks he's an Expert in the field of BLM coal leasing. That being said, Senator Markey demanded that the BLM address so-called deficiencies in the Coal Leasing Program and take drastic measures, like a coal leasing moratorium. The BLM addressed the Senator's concerns in a clearly-worded letter on August 14th of 2014. In this letter, Director Neal Cornsey [phonetic] wrote, "while the Department intends to make necessary changes to the -- to improve the Coal Leasing Program, we do not agree that our coal program should be suspended until these reforms are completed". And then, came Secretarial Order 3338 a year and a half later. So, why is the BLM taking a completely different view on this? The answer is simple. This moratorium is a result of the BLM pandering to the influence of environmental NGOs and their well-funded political figures. I encourage the BLM to stop following political motives, and instead take this opportunity to step back, review the regulations already in place, and continue as the BLM was intended to function, and as most of you are aware. If the BLM is truly working for ways to improve their leasing program, then approve the timeliness of this process. It shouldn't take a decade for a lease to go through the NEPA process. It should not take a year for the BLM to sign a record of decision. It shouldn't take six months for a notice to be published in the Federal Register. I propose that the leasing process be based on time limitations. There should be a set number of days for each step in the process. To start with -- losing my spot. To start with, the recent process from the time the tract is nominated to the time the lease sell is held should take no longer than three years. The NEPA process from the Notice of Intent to the final EIS should take at a maximum a year and a half. The fair market value needs to be

completed within a month's time. All notices required to be published in the Federal Register cannot be bounced from desk to desk. Instead, notices should be published within a week of any decision being made. These timelines are not unreasonable. After all, most solar and wind projects proposed in the last three years on BLM lands take these same time -- periods of time. So, please, stop gambling with the lives of my coworkers and our jobs. Quit following the political agenda, and follow some of the suggestions that you hear today. Thank you for your time.